



MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Homer-Center School Board
Homer City, PA 15748
Central Office Board Room
November 16, 2017

Members Present

Mr. Gerald Bertig
Mr. Michael Bertig
Mr. Logan Dellafiora
Mr. Daniel Fabin
Mr. Fred Hayes
Mr. James McLoughlin
Mr. Justin Smyers
Mrs. Vicki Smith

Members Absent

Mrs. Julie Rado

School Administrators Present

Dr. Charles J. Koren, Superintendent
Mr. Gregory Cessna, Business Manager
Mr. Michael Stofa, Elementary Principal
Mr. Jody Rainey, High School Principal
Mrs. Bethany Genchur, Special Education Director
Mr. Edward Sutter, Facilities Supervisor
Mrs. Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Homer-Center Staff Present

Len Black
Lisa Adams
Wendy Gallo
Brianna Switzer
Christina Bruno
Christine Yurky
Christy Detwiler
Kara Gardner
Laura Root
Kristin Curci
Josh Kapcoe
Brad Adams
Greg Page
Mark Butler
Tony Buffone
Tammy Buffone
Jon Stolarz
Cindy Andrie
Tanya Hirsch
Sarah Cook

Media Present

Jesse VanHorn, 1160 WCCS
Greg Reinbold, The Dispatch

Visitors

Robert W. Valyo
Franklin Maratita and Family
Mason Sisko and Family
Drew Hurd and Family

The Board held an executive session from 7:00-7:34 p.m. for personnel reasons.

President Vicki Smith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and reading of the Homer-Center Mission Statement opened the meeting. Eight members were present at roll call to comprise a quorum.

MINUTES

On a Smyers/McLoughlin motion approved the minutes from the October 17, 2017 Regular Meeting. Voice vote; unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS – None

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Mr. Stofa introduced Mrs. Gallo and Ms. Switzer who presented Mason Sisko with his Wildcat Recognition Award for November, 2017. Mr. Rainey introduced Mr. Page who presented Franklin Maratita with his Wildcat Recognition Award for November, 2017. Mr. McLoughlin presented Drew Hurd with his Kiwanis Senior of the Month Award. Mrs. Smith gave all recipients an HC lapel pin from the Board.

REPORTS

1. ARIN IU 28- Dr. Koren read a report from Mrs. Rado who was absent. Items from the last meeting discussed were: providing physical therapy services for Apollo-Ridge; reading fundamental grant will be used to assist in the teen parenting program; TAC activities; shared the video from the recent accident involving two Blairsville students on the IU van on Rt. 22. The ARIN Board will acknowledge the van driver for her quick thinking and heroic action; Cogent will be out of service effective November 20th. Morpho will take over for that system and will be up and running by December 8th for FBI Fingerprinting; purchased a new generator. Mrs. Rado thanked the entire Board for the pleasure of working with them. She has enjoyed her eight years of service and looks forward to traveling and playing more golf.
2. ICTC- Mrs. Smith noted that the Challenger Center and WCC might be moving to ICTC grounds in a separate building built by WCC. More information on this is forthcoming. She also noted there are a few open positions currently at ICTC that they will be looking at filling.
3. Building and Grounds- The committee continues to make their project list and prioritizing the items.
4. Parks and Recreation – No report
5. Academic Committee – Mr. M. Bertig reported the committee discussed the following items: elementary report cards and moving towards Standards Based Report Cards for K-2; Reviewed the School Performance Profiles; discussed advanced Placement Courses; reviewed AP testing vs. College in the Classroom; discussion on 3 hour delays in the winter months and noted it would not be beneficial to do this as it is too disruptive to the school day; continued discussion on high school start time. More info on cost changes is coming from Smith Bus Co.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. McLoughlin read the Treasurer's Report for October 31, 2017 and Cafeteria Cash Statement for October 31, 2017. On a Fabin/Hayes motion, the reports were approved. Voice vote; unanimous.

BILLS

On a McLoughlin/J. Bertig motion the general fund, cafeteria and capital reserve fund bills for November, 2017 were approved for payment. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Cessna reported that interest earned during September, 2017 amounted to \$877.82 and October, 2017 amounted to \$1,317.19.

On a Hayes/Dellafiora motion approved a \$3,000 Dollar General Literacy Foundation Youth Literacy Grant for the purchase of 55 Kindle Fires along with books for the Kindle Fires. Usage will be in the high school English and Reading classes. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

PERSONNEL

Certified and Support Personnel

On a Smyers/McLoughlin motion approved the following: (1) Mrs. Michelle Waller, LPN, as a substitute nurse retroactive to November 14, 2017; (2) accepted the resignation of Mrs. Gail Willis, cafeteria worker, effective retroactively to October 20, 2017; (3) accepted the resignation, due to retirement, of Mrs. Lola Skoff, head custodian, effective retroactive to November 3, 2017; (4) accepted the resignation, due to retirement, of Mr. Wilbert Wolfgang, head custodian, effective November 27, 2017; (5) employed Mrs. Mindy Strong as a 4-hour cafeteria worker effective retroactively to October 31, 2017 at 90% of the starting salary for the 60 day probationary period of \$9.10/hour, and as per the CBA between the Homer-Center School District and the HCESP. Voice vote; unanimous.

Support Personnel

On a McLoughlin/Dellafiora motion approved the movement of Mr. Gregg Garonzi to an 8 hour, 12 month head custodian in the elementary school at the salary of 90% for the 30 day probationary period \$11.77/hour, then to be increased to \$13.08/hour, and to be adjusted as per the CBA between the HCESP and the Homer-Center School District effective November 20, 2017. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a McLoughlin/Fabin motion approved the movement of Mrs. Lynn Michaels to an 8 hour, 12 month head custodian in the high school at the salary of 90% for the 30 day probationary period \$11.77/hour, then to be increased to \$13.08/hour, and to be adjusted as per

the CBA between the HCESP and the Homer-Center School District effective November 20, 2017. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

Supplemental Personnel

On a Fabin/Hayes motion approved the following: (1) Courtney Henry as the Interim Head Cheerleading Sponsor and Taylor Palmer as the Interim Assistant Cheerleading Sponsor for the remainder of the 2017-18 season; (2) the following as basketball coaches for the 2017-18 season: Boys' Basketball – Bob Rado, Head Coach; Paul Pohley, Matt Wilson, Dave Cook – Assistant Coaches; Jim McLoughlin, Rickey Miller, Chad Yancy and John Cook – volunteers; Girls' Basketball – Tom Lasher, Head Coach; Rob Worcester, Mike Arone, Jim Tyger – Assistant Coaches; Ricc Brown, Volunteer; (3) Ms. Kye-Won Kopko as the choreographer for the high school musical at the supplemental salary of \$427 for the 2017-18 school year; (4) the following as musicians for the high school musical at the current supplemental salary of \$124/ea.: Sandy Scott, Kenton Scott, Shannon Stains, Ed D'Aurelio, Tom Betts, Chellise Stolarz, Grant Shearer, Steven Dusach, Alecia Bender. Mr. Smyers again noted that he is opposed to having a parent coaching the team that their child plays on. Poll vote; motion carried 5-2-1 with Mr. J. Bertig and Mr. M. Bertig voting no and Mr. Smyers abstaining.

Volunteers

On a Dellaflora/McLoughlin motion approved the following as volunteers for Indoor Percussion and Color Guard for the 17-18 season: Kyle Reinsburrow, Jarrel Verbecken, Bryce Burfete, Chris Bittner, Helen Floran, Chellise Stolarz, Karen Marshall, Lindsey Gibson, and Cameron Beal. Voice vote; unanimous.

EDUCATION – No Report

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On a Smyers/McLoughlin motion approved the following student field trips: (1) Ms. Amber Leitsch and four students to Renda Broadcasting retroactive to October 31, 2017 for recordings on the radio to promote the high school musical; (2) Mr. Charles Kirkland and two students to attend the FBLA Chamber of Commerce Luncheon at the KCAC in Indiana, PA on December 1, 2017. Cost to the district is one substitute for a half day. Using the school van. Voice vote; unanimous.

On a Hayes/McLoughlin motion granted permission to form a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization for interested students in the high school. After discussion, the Board Poll voted; motion carried 4-3-1 with Mr. Smyers, Mr. M. Bertig, and Mr. Dellaflora voting no and Mr. J. Bertig abstaining.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

On a Smyers/Dellafiora motion approved the following use of building and grounds: (1) the use of the high school cafeteria for a Homer-Center Band Boosters Spaghetti Dinner prior to the musical on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 12:00-9:00 p.m. With Board approval, all fees will be waived; (2) the use of the high school Classroom 20 and the elementary school Classroom 706 & Sensory Room for ARIN IU 28/Homer-Center Special Ed ESY Summer Program from July 2-August 9, 2018 (Tuesday-Thursday) 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. With Board approval, all fees will be waived; (3) the Lady Wildcat Athletic Association to use the Elementary Cafeteria/Gym on Sunday, January 14, 2018 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. for a Basket Bash to benefit the high school softball team. With Board approval, \$125 in custodial fees will be assessed to the group; (4) Dr. Ruth Yatzkanic and the TADD Club to host the Jr. High Semi-Formal Dance in the high school cafeteria and lobby area on December 16, 2017 from 7-9 p.m. With Board approval, all fees will be waived. Voice vote; unanimous.

CAFETERIA – No Report

POLICIES –No Report

TRANSPORTATION

On a Smyers/McLoughlin motion approved the following as spare bus drivers for the 2017-18 school year: Mrs. Lori Cochran, Mrs. Tracy Utberg and Mr. Mark Kozar. Voice vote; unanimous.

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

On a Hayes/J. Bertig motion reappointed Mr. Gregory Cessna to the Indiana County Tax Collection Committee. Poll vote; motion carried 8-0.

On a Smyers/Fabin motion approved the agreement between Adelphoi Education, Inc. in Latrobe, PA and the Homer-Center School District effective retroactive to November 7, 2017. Voice vote; unanimous.

Informational – ARIN IU 28 Board Representative selection will be done at the Reorganization/Planning Meeting on December 7, 2017, due to Mrs. Rado's departure on the School Board. Mrs. Smith asked that one of our Board members to be willing to take on this position.

On a McLoughlin/Dellafiora motion approved an additional musician for the high school musical, Mr. Mike Conrad, at the \$124 supplemental salary. Voice vote; unanimous.

OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Stofa reported on the following: (1) handed out information regarding the elementary school's procedures for food allergies and discussed these with the Board; (2) made a demonstration with the new Hydroponic System Tower Garden that was received through a Monsano grant Mrs. Cathy Hayes submitted. There will be one system per grade level.

Mr. Rainey reported on the following: (1) D6 semifinal game against Ferndale is Nov. 18th at 7:00 pm at Memorial Field; (2) Congratulations to Jesse Lee for becoming all-time rushing leader; (3) tickets on sale for the musical Annie on December 1-3. Spaghetti dinner on Dec. 2 from 4:30-6:30 to benefit the Indoor Color Guard and Indoor Percussion; (4) Dec. 7th annual Band & Choral Concert at 7:00 p.m.; (5) Grade 10 completed ASVAB exams; (6) Winter Keystone exams will be administered Dec. 5-6 for Literature; Dec. 13-14 for Biology and Jan. 9-10 for Algebra I; (7) commendations extended to YAG and advisor Chris Yurky for another well planned Veteran's Day Assembly; (8) Student Council wrapped up food drive collections for our local pantry; (9) basketball season officially begins November 17th with Tip Off Tournament scheduled for December 8th.

Mrs. Genchur reported on the following: (1) the Elementary SWPIS team held their first Quarterly reward assembly on November 9th. The Paw Patrol were also formed; (2) Second grade students will be completing the CogATs on November 20-21; (3) Mr. Misko's class had Thanksgiving dinner and she noted how wonderful the food was; (4) Mrs. Genchur had some PVAAS Webinar handouts to share with the Board.

Mr. Sutter reported on the following: (1) County Code inspection was conducted on the playground and the occupancy permit is forthcoming; (2) DCNR inspector will come and then we will get the final grant money; (3) Football field was lined yesterday; (4) Mr. Sutter and Dr. Koren were driving some of the bus routes and looking at bus stop ahead signs. Mr. Sutter has purchased more signs for future use; (5) Mr. Sutter thanked Mrs. Skoff and Mr. Wolfgang for all their hard work over the years and wished them well in their retirement.

REPORT OF HCEA REPRESENTATIVE – Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Adams acknowledged Mrs. Skoff and Mr. Wolfgang's retirements. She also thanked Mr. McLoughlin for bringing the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization club to our school.

REPORT OF HCESP REPRESENTATIVE- Mr. Black

Mr. Black thanked Mrs. Rado for her dedication and hard work to our district over the past eight years as a Board Member. He also thanked Mrs. Skoff and Mr. Wolfgang for their years of service and noted they will be sadly missed.

REPORT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Smyers welcomed soon to be Board Member Robert Valyo who was in the audience. Mr. McLoughlin thanked Mr. Wolfgang and Mrs. Skoff for their service to the district and hopes they enjoy their retirement. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Dellaflora also thanked Mrs. Skoff and Mr. Wolfgang for their service and thanked Mrs. Rado for her service to the Board and noted what an inspiration she was to him as a new Board Member. He also welcomed Mr. Valyo to the Board. He also clarified his vote on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization that he is not opposed to the club, but some of the beliefs being presented. Mr. McLoughlin noted we can make our own Mission Statement for this club as a district. Mr. J. Bertig echoed the sentiments of the Board to the retirees and Mrs. Rado for her service on the Board. He also questioned the food allergy policy. Dr. Koren noted it is covered under the Student Wellness Policy, with adjustments made in the student handbooks. Mr. M. Bertig noted his objection to parents in the role of coaching the teams that their child plays on. He also asked that we consider our own vision/mission statement for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Organization club as he does not agree with their mission statement. He thanked Mrs. Rado for her service on the Board and shared a photo from the Academic Committee Meeting. He welcomed Mr. Valyo to the Board. Mrs. Smith also noted that Mrs. Rado will be greatly missed on the Board and thanked her for her eight years of service. She also noted that in 2018-19 Act 55 will be in place which is mandatory training for two hours for newly elected Board Members. She also noted the State had passed legislation on furloughs, and that schools cannot withhold a child's lunch due to not enough money in their account due to the new no lunch shaming policy. The use of technology will be looked into to notify parents of low balances in the student's accounts. She also noted that opioid training will be available soon for staff. There was change in the superintendent's contracts in that only 90 day notice would need to be given to the superintendent in the case of his/her contract not being renewed. Mrs. Smith wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and said "Go Wildcats". Mr. Fabin, Mr. Hayes and Mr. Smyers had no reports.

On a McLoughlin/Smyers motion the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m. Voice vote; unanimous.

Submitted for board approval,


Rhonda Clifford, Board Secretary

Seal

Vicki Smith, President